stabilise the price of rubber in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHM DUTT); (a) Domestic " average prices ot RMA-4 grade of rubber in the last three years were as below:

(In Rs./Tonnes)

Year	PMA-4 Rubber
1983-84	17510
1984-85	16570
1985-86	17320

(b) Domestic average prices of RMA-4 grade of rubber in the last three months were as below:

(in Rs. tonne)

Month	RMA-4 Rubber
April	17340
May	17380
June	16800

(c) Prices have all along been ruling above the desired price objective of Rs. 16500 tonne for MRA-4 grade of rubber.

(d) Government have introduced a buffer stocking scheme to stabilize domestic market prices of rubber.

Jute laminating industry

800. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA; Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the crisis in the jute laminating industry in the country due to acute demand recessio i in laminated jute bags with the increasing use of synthetic HDPE/PP bags by the cement and fertiliser industries resulting in huge loses; to the jute laminating industry besides rendering rnassive labour force unemployed; and

(b) if so, what steps are contemplated by Government to improve the situation in the jute laminating industry to make it economically viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Government are aware of the competition to jute industry and jute laminating industry in the country from the synthetic substitutes. Following steps have been taken to improve the situation for jute and jute laminating industry:

(1) Imposition of Excise Duty *an* HDPE/PPTABLES and marginal increase of import duty in granuels in the present union budget to improve competitiveness of jute industry.

(2) Railways have been persuaded to withdraw their earlier order for packing salt in synthetic bags only for transportation with effect from 1.7.86. Railways are now continuing to accept salt packed in jute bags.

(3) Introduction of scheme of buffer stock of raw jute for avoiding wide fluctuation in the price of raw jute so that jute goods prices remain competitive.

(4) Pursuing other Departments, to encourage use of more jute bags in. stead of synthetic substitutes of packing, fertilisers etc. and compulsory use of IOO per cent new jute bags by Cement Industry.

Workers' participation in private sector

801. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will he Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Gov-